

Abstract

A retractable roof assembly (53) is provided for a motor vehicle (10) having a rear seat (24) and spaced apart roof side frame members (30) defining a roof opening (31). The retractable roof assembly (53) includes a split rail assembly (33) having a fixed rail (34) adapted to be fixedly secured to each of the roof side frame members (30) and extending along a portion thereof, and a movable rail (40) extending rearward of the fixed rail (34) along a remaining portion of each of the roof side frame members (30). A plurality of roof panels (58, 60, 62) extends between the roof side frame members (30) and slidably engages the split rail assembly (33) for selective movement into a stacked configuration above the movable rail (40). A linkage assembly (254) is operably connected to the movable rail (40) for pivoting and articulating the movable rail (40) relative to the fixed rail (34) when the plurality of roof panels (58, 60, 62) is in the stacked configuration in order to stow the plurality of roof panels (58, 60, 62) behind the rear seat (24) of the motor vehicle (10) such that the entire roof opening (31) is exposed.

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